

Pat Bauer

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Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session has ended. While we passed several important pieces of legislation, I am disappointed we did not reach agreement on a major tax restructuring plan or address the state budget deficit.

I authored a plan in the House that would have addressed the current state budget deficit intensified by the national recession, created a better climate for economic growth and offset expected property tax increases. I believe this proposal answered some of the questions about fairness and equity that have long plagued our tax systems.

We confronted these issues now rather than later in order to avoid cutting important state services, including funding for public education. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Indiana House and Senate did not share this opinion, and we were unable to establish a compromise in the closing days of the session. It concerns me that the Republicans are unwilling to do anything to address the short-term financial stability of our state.

Despite my concerns about the budget deficit and taxes, I am pleased we did enact several proposals to help a variety of Hoosiers. We passed landmark public safety legislation, enacted important provisions that protect children and approved several health care initiatives. I have detailed a number of new laws inside this newsletter.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about state government. You can e-mail me at H6@in.gov or call toll free at 1-800-382-9842.

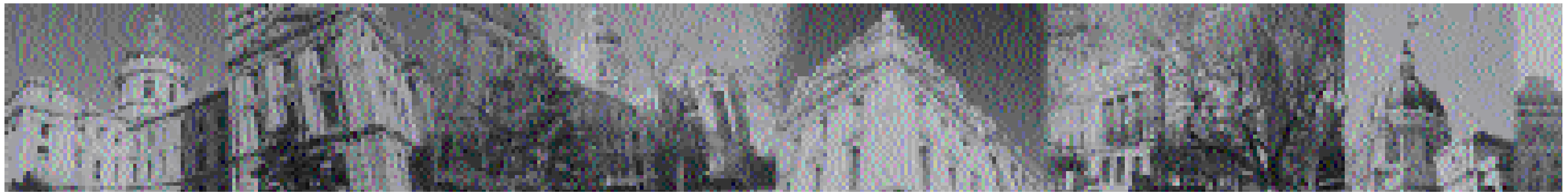
Sincerely,

Inside

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New law penalizes gas gouging

Fuel retailers who take advantage of public fears after emergencies to artificially inflate gas prices will be penalized through a bill that I co-authored.

House Bill 1015 permits the Indiana attorney general to investigate and take action against retailers who engage in fuel price gouging. The legislation was signed into law by Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

House Bill 1015 came into being as a result of public concerns expressed in the wake of the tragedies that took place on September 11, 2001. At a time when most Americans were coming together as a country to face down the threat of terrorism, a few greedy people decided to use the emergency as a chance to make extra profits.

In the days after the Sept. 11 attacks, I heard numerous complaints from citizens upset that some dealers were charging exorbitant prices for gasoline. Reports indicated that customers were being charged as much as \$5 per gallon.

Through this legislation, the attorney general will have the ability to investigate complaints on price gouging and seek relief against those parties who are found guilty. Penalties could include fines of up to \$1,000 per transaction and restitution for victims of price gouging.

The attorney general also will make information about complaints of price gouging available to the general public, although the data will not identify particular people or locations.

There is nothing more reprehensible than the actions of those who consider emergencies a prime opportunity to line

their own pockets. After September 11th, we were able to send many positive messages to our young people about standing up against evil in this world. Through passage of House Bill 1015, we can provide another reminder that people should not profit from others in times of misfortune.



THIS AMERICAN FLAG HANGS IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE STATEHOUSE.



REP. BAUER SPEAKS BEFORE THE HOUSE.

Bauer enjoys successes in 2002 session

The failure to pass a comprehensive budget deficit and tax restructuring bill was a great disappointment. However, I was pleased by the passage of several bills that I authored and sponsored in the House.

School funds

I authored a bill which allows school corporations to transfer funds from their Capital Projects, Transportation Operating, School Bus Replacement Fund and Debt Service accounts to their general fund to help make up for some of the cuts made to education. House Bill 1196 also allows higher education to transfer funds from the Higher Education Technology Fund to help make up for cuts from their operating budgets. Additionally, the bill helps to keep and create more jobs in Indiana through various economic development incentives to maintain and retain businesses.

Self-directed care

I supported House Bill 1252, which permits certain individuals who are not licensed health care professionals to provide inhome care services. The bill also extends the self-directed inhome care provisions.

School referendum tax levies

I also sponsored Senate Bill 175. This law provides that if an excessive levy referendum is approved, a school corporation may impose a referendum tax levy that is separate from the general fund tax levy. Voters may reimpose or extend such a levy through the referendum process but may not approve a referendum tax levy that is imposed for more than seven years.

The law provides that if the majority of voters did not vote to approve the levy, another referendum to impose a levy may not be held for a period of one year. It does not include the referendum tax levy in the determination of state tuition support or maximum general fund tax levy.



REP. BAUER DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH REPS. SHEILA KLINKER (D-LAFAYETTE) AND VERN TINSCHER (D-RILEY).

Mobile telecommunications revenue

Finally, Senate Bill 52 implements the federal Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act, which provides that taxes, charges, and fees levied on wireless telephone service shall be paid to the jurisdiction where the customer's primary use of the service occurs, which means it brings the taxes imposed back to Indiana.

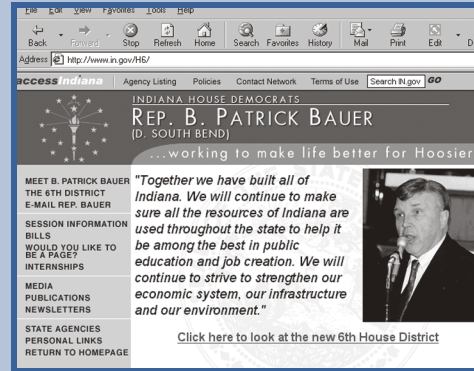


Stay in touch with Representative Bauer online

The state Website provides a great deal of information about state government, the legislative process and other related items. The main site at www.in.gov offers a nice starting point to explore government in Indiana. You may even listen to audio of the Indiana General Assembly while the legislature is in session.

From www.in.gov you may visit my homepage at www.in.gov/H6 and that of other state officials and state agencies. Information is available on education and working in Indiana, as well as resources for recreation and cultural events.

I encourage you to visit the Website and explore items related to the legislature and to our district. You'll find a map of our district and links to recent newsletters and press releases. I hope that you'll visit often to stay in touch with me and with events that impact District 6.



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